

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 230-2005



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: September 8, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name of the City Manager.

Subject: HATE CRIME INITIATIVES

This Letter to the Mayor and City Commissioners is to provide information on the Police Department's recent Hate Crime Initiatives. A Hate Crime is a criminal offense committed against persons, property, or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by an offender's bias against a group's race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Hate Crimes include not only violence against individuals or groups but also crimes against property, such as arson or vandalism, particularly those directed against community centers or houses of worship.

In an effort to reduce the number of Hate Crime related incidents the Police Department is taking the following actions:

- The Hate Crimes Hotline phone number has been added to the Police Department's home page on the City's website.
- Assignment of Police Walking Beats to Washington Avenue during critical times to address improper behavior.
- Sergeant Eugene Rodriguez is organizing a Hotel/Nightlife Hate Crimes Educational meeting for October 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room. Representatives from area hotels and nightclubs will be invited to learn about Hate Crimes and the importance of reporting Hate Crime related incidents.
- The Police Department's Victim Advocates and Detectives obtained and distributed Hate Crime Hotline Cards and informational brochures to the nightlife community at large with special attention being given towards gay nightclubs in South Beach. This took place on Friday, September 2nd and Saturday, September 3rd from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- Assigned Captain Brian Sliman, Commander of the Criminal Investigations Unit to be the point person for follow-up investigations on Hate Crimes. Captain Sliman's contact information has been added to the Police Department's home page and a link has been added directly to his email address.
- Refresher roll call training has been conducted for Patrol Officers and Detectives.
- 400 Pocket Guides with tips for the investigation and prevention of hate crimes from the Bureau of Justice Assistance will be distributed to Patrol Officers.

JMG\DWDT

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